

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application, claims 1 and 9 being independent, and claims 17-20 have been added to more particularly define the present invention.

Brief Description of Preferred Embodiments

The advent of navigational devices has led to multiple methods of information delivery. Often what distinguishes the ingenuity of the devices is the method of information presentation in the displays of such devices. When a motorist is attempting to navigate a route it is desirable to display the distance from the present position to the upcoming roads. This allows quick and easy determination of the distance of possible upcoming alternative routes. On the other hand, if a motorist has to mentally calculate the distance to the next route from the displayed information, his attention is not on the road, and by the time he has calculated the distance he may miss a road he intended to use as an alternative route. The present invention provides the distance from the present position to the branching routes freeing up time that can be better spent driving and route planning.

Prior Art Rejections

1. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) based on *Asano et al.*

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Asano et al.* (E.P. Patent No. 0636863). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a navigational device having a route searching means, a route guiding means, and a display means. The display means displays the distances

to each intersection, calculated by the route guiding means, and displays the name of each intersection.

Claim 9 is a method of similar scope as claim 1.

The Examiner has used *Asano* to allegedly show all the elements of claims 1-16 (Office Action pgs. 2-3). *Asano* allegedly shows the calculation of the distances between the roads (*Asano*, Figure 6; col. 8, ll. 21-22; col. 8, ll. 54-55; col. 9, ll. 55-56), however claims 1-16 of the present invention calculate and show the distances between the present position and each road (Claim 1 and 9). In *Asano* the user must perform an additional mental calculation to determine the distance between his present position and any road ahead. This takes away from the time the driver could be using for other driving activities. The present invention frees up the time associated with such a mental calculation allowing more time for the driver to use, by providing the distance from the present position to the routes. Thus *Asano* is missing an element of claims 1 and 9.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)(M.P.E.P. 2131). For reasons stated above applicants assert that all of the elements of claims 1 and 9 are not set forth in the embodiment shown in *Asano* and, thus, *Asano* fails to anticipate claims 1 and 9. Since claims 2-8, and 10-16 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of claims 1 and 9, claims 2-8, and 10-16 are allowable at least for the reasons generally expressed above with respect to claims 1 and 9.

Additionally, since *Asano* neglects to mention a need for the distance from the present position to the branching routes, *Asano* fails to teach or suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art the arrangement of the present invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on *Asano*.

Conclusion

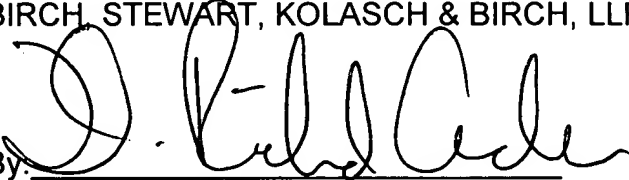
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the formal objections and rejections to the claims, and the rejections based on prior art. Because all claims are believed to define over prior art of record, Applicants respectfully request an early indication of allowability.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner of hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: 

D. Richard Anderson
Reg. No. 40,439

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DRA/JPK/gf/jeb
(703) 205-8000
1163-0342P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

Version Showing Changes Made

In the claims:

Claims 17-20 have been added.